

367BC

Rome

After 10 yr struggle - LICINIA
Laws were passed.

Patricians and Plebeians are granted
equal rights.

counted in the farm produce. Many modern garden vegetables were not yet known, and the Roman variety was certainly no larger than the Egyptian of a much earlier time, but we read frequently of beans, onions, turnips, cabbages, and of such fruits as figs, olives, apples, plums, and pears.

In the city itself (as no doubt in all Italian towns), the craftsmen were organized in "unions" (guilds). These guilds were not for the purpose of raising wages, as with us, nor mainly for improving the character of the work, as in later centuries in Europe. They were associations for friendly intercourse, and, to some extent, for mutual helpfulness among the members in times of misfortune. They illustrate the extraordinary Roman capacity for organization and group action, - in marked contrast to the individuality of Greek life. Legend tells us that King Numa organized the guilds of carpenters, shoemakers, dyers, laundrymen, potters, copper smiths, and flute players. Certainly these guilds were very ancient at Rome. Weavers and bakers were to appear a little later; but during this period these industries were carried on each household. The oldest guild known to us - that of the flute players, who furnished music for the sacred festivals -

in the only one, so far as we know, which even
entailed upon a strike for greater privileges
commerce (bonds & otherwise) paid huge profits
to the successful merchants (those who did not
too often lose money by shipwreck or piracy). The few
rich Romans still dominated the business for themselves,
but they had begun to use their capital as it through
their slaves or former slaves (freed men).

ROMAN SOCIETY

INDUSTRIES

367-200 B.C.

The Roman citizens, in the main, were still yeomen
farmers, who worked hard and lived plainly.
Each such farmer killed his few acres with
his own hands and the help of his own sons.
Each 9th day, he came to the city with a load
of produce for the "market." The early practice
of raising cattle had given way largely to
the cultivation of wheat, barley, garden vegetables,
and fruit, but horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs still